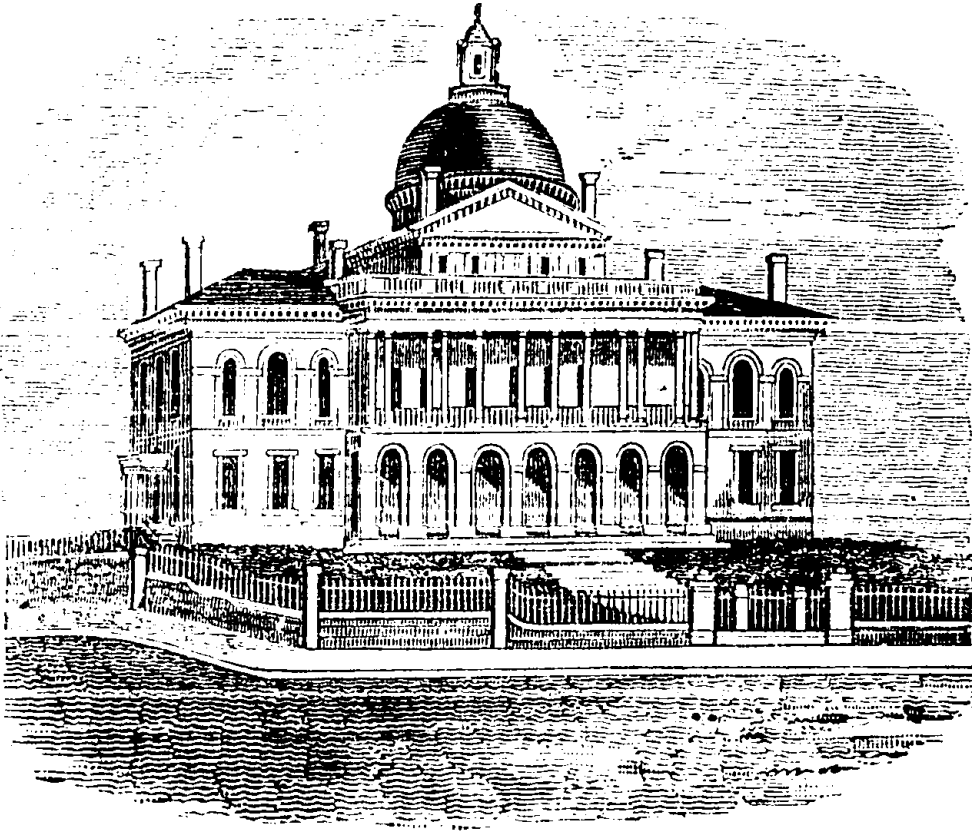


# HISTORY OF BOSTON.



BY ROBIN CARVER.

BOSTON :

LILLY, WAIT, COLMAN, AND HOLDEN.

1834.

## CHAPTER III.

*Arrival of Mr Cotton. Extravagance. Wearing veils. Chicatabot. His visit to Gov. Winthrop. New suit. Indians at church. Mr Henry Vane. Elected governor. Mrs Hutchinson. Field election. Mr Vane's return. Mrs Hutchinson killed by the Indians. The wood cutters. Great musters. Story of the Pig.*

1. IN 1633, the colony at Boston was increased by about two hundred new settlers. Among these was the reverend John Cotton, a minister, who had become quite celebrated in England. He was immediately ordained teacher of the first church, and obtained great influence.

2. My readers would hardly think, that, at this early period, Mr Cotton was obliged to preach against extravagance and luxury. This is the case, however. The females were in the habit of wearing very great sleeves, long veils, embroidered caps, with gold and silver laces. One morning Mr Cotton was preaching at Salem, and told his hearers that there was no command in the Scripture that they should

wear veils. In the afternoon, they all put them aside, and ever afterwards appeared without them.

3. In November of this year a friendly Indian chief, named Chicatabot, died. He had often come to Boston, and visited Governor Winthrop. At one time he was attended by several of his tribe, and brought the governor a present of some corn. They were well received, and each was treated with a little tobacco, and a cup of sack. The chief then ordered them away, though it was in the midst of a violent thunder storm. He remained all night himself.

4. Chicatabot sometimes dressed in the English fashion. As his only suit was at that time considerably the worse for wear, he began to think of getting another. It seemed to him that the governor had a suit to spare, and he very simply asked him to sell one.

5. The governor told him, that it was not the custom among the English chiefs, to trade in old clothes, but that he would give him a dress with much pleasure. He then sent for his tailor, and Chicatabot was measured for a full suit of regimentals. They fitted him very well, and he was much delighted with them. In return, he presented the governor with a couple of beaver skins.

6. Governor Winthrop invited him at the time to a collation. He behaved with much propriety, and refused to eat till the governor had given thanks. After finishing his repast, he again requested him to give thanks, and retired.

7. In this respect, he conducted himself much better than



Governor Winthrop and the Indian Chief.

some of his brother Indians, who visited the colony about the same time. They were invited to attend meeting, and hear a sermon. Before the sermon was ended, they began to grow tired and hungry. Their impatience was so great that they went out, and, breaking into a house in the neighborhood, eat and drank whatever they found there, without ceremony.

8. In 1635 two ships arrived at Boston, with numerous passengers. The most distinguished of them was Mr Henry Vane. He was a man of wit and shrewdness, and became so popular, that in the following year he was chosen governor, in the place of Mr Winthrop. His election was complimented by a salute from all the ships in the harbor, which were fifteen in number. The next week he invited all the ship masters to a dinner.

9. For several months, Governor Vane continued to give great satisfaction. He afterwards busied himself in religious disputes, and became unpopular. Mrs Hutchinson, a woman of much eloquence and vanity, undertook to establish a weekly meeting of the religious women of the church. It was held at her own house, and she was in the habit of making long prayers and addresses there.

10. She soon began to circulate some strange opinions in respect to religion. The church were much divided about them. Governor Vane joined the party of Mrs Hutchinson. This gave offence to a great many of his old friends, and at the next election he was turned out of office.

11. This election took place in May. The weather being quite warm, it was held in a field. Great noise and confusion attended it, and some of the parties came to blows. One of the electors climbed upon the bough of a tree, and addressed the meeting at the top of his voice. He advised them to hurry to business, and the people crying out 'Election! Election!' they proceeded to vote. Mr Winthrop was returned to his old office of governor.

12. Mr Vane was much displeased, and at last almost came to an open quarrel with Governor Winthrop. He determined to return to England, and in August set sail from Boston. A military company escorted him to the shore, and fired several volleys by way of salute. Five pieces of cannon were also discharged, and five more at the castle. On arriving in his native country, Mr Vane became a violent politician. He joined the party against King Charles, and was beheaded in 1662 for high treason.

13. Mrs Hutchinson continued her weekly lectures, and caused a great deal of mischief by them. She was finally banished from the colony, and went with her husband to Rhode Island. In 1642, she removed to a Dutch settlement in New York, and in the following year was captured and slain by the Indians. Of her whole family, consisting of fifteen persons, only one escaped.

14. In the November of 1637, and the winter months which followed, the weather was exceedingly severe, and the inhabitants of Boston suffered much from the want of fire-wood.

For about four months, snow lay upon the ground to the depth of four feet and a half. On the thirteenth of January the day was clear, and a party of thirty men went to Spectacle Island for the purpose of cutting wood.

15. The next night a violent storm set in, which was followed by high winds and extreme cold, for two days. The harbor was frozen over with the exception of a narrow channel, by which twelve of the men found their way to an Island which was then called Governor's Garden. Seven more were carried out in their skiffs among the rocks, and remained there forty-eight hours, without food or fire.

16. The rest attempted to pass over the ice from the island to the town, and with much difficulty succeeded. Of those driven down among the rocks, all had their feet and hands frozen, and one died. The colonists were sadly disheartened, and even thought of breaking up the settlement.

17. In the month of May 1639, we read of a great military muster in Boston. A thousand soldiers were collected from different parts of the Bay. They were divided into two regiments, well armed and exercised. A day was passed in military actions, and skirmishes of various kinds. Governor Winthrop commanded one regiment, and the deputy governor the other.

19. Two years afterwards there was another muster in Boston, which lasted two days. About twelve hundred men were assembled, and their place of meeting is said to have been by the bottom of the Common, on a slight elevation

which once existed there, and which was called Fox Hill. It is said that at this early day, some good people thought ill of these great trainings; because, from their show and pomp, the mother country might think her colonies were looking forward to independence.

20. About this time the town was thrown into a great commotion. What do my readers think was the cause of it? It was neither an Indian war, nor a flood, nor a famine, nor a pestilence. It was merely a pig!

21. A Mrs Sherman owned a pig which had a taste for rambling. One fine summer morning, it left its straw without ever saying as much as 'Good morning,' and trotted along through the town, feasting in every corn-field which offered any thing to its liking.

22. It so happened that a stray pig was caught a few weeks after, and brought to Captain Keayne. The captain was an honest man, and disposed to give every one his due; so he hired the town-crier to go about, and let the people know that he had found a pig. Nobody claimed it, however, and the captain determined to fatten it for his own eating. He kept it a year in the yard with a pig of his own, and in due time had the latter killed.

23. Mrs Sherman now came forward, and accused Captain Keayne of killing her pig. The matter was examined by the members of the church, and he was declared innocent. Our good lady carried her cause to court, and not only lost it, but had to pay £3 into the bargain. The captain then



prosecuted her, and a friend who had urged her to slander him, and obtained £20 for defamation.

24. The case again went into a court at Salem, and then to the General Court of the colonies. Mrs Sherman was so vexatious and persevering, that the captain finally made her a present of the living pig, in order to get rid of her, and restore public peace.